

BOSSIER



PARISH

“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



Bossier Parish

Shreveport Bossier Parish Tourist Commission

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Regional Office of Public Health

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History¹

Bossier Parish was carved out of the great Natchitoches District on February 24, 1843. It was named after Pierre Evariste Bossier, a descendent of an early settler and a member of Congress when the parish was formed. Located in the rich valley of the Red River, the parish has long been known for its agricultural production. Barksdale Air Force Base, located in part within the city limits of Bossier City, has been a major factor in the growth of the parish.

Culture and Recreation³

Steeped with southern tradition coupled with modern progressiveness, Bossier and Caddo Parishes offer a variety of attractions, festivals, nationally-acclaimed sporting events, art galleries and museums. Linked together by the nation's largest neon-lit bridge, Shreveport and Bossier City offer abundant shopping, accommodations and specialty foods. Louisiana Downs and riverboat casinos offer adult entertainment, while children of all ages can enjoy a trip to Hamel's Amusement Park and Water Town U.S.A. Or enjoy a leisurely stroll through the Gardens of the American Rose Center and the Barnwell Garden and Art Center. The area is surrounded by tranquil lakes and over 3,000 acres of landscaped parks. Bossier and Caddo Parishes are culture-filled with a metropolitan ballet company, opera, symphony, art galleries, theater and museums.

Parish Seat¹ Benton¹

Major Cities (over 5,000 population)²

Bossier City

1990 52,721

1997 (estimate) 57,141

Red Chute CDP*

1990 5,431

1997 (estimate) N/A*

**Census Designated Place*

Parish Population²

1990 93,265

1997 (estimate) 93,752

Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)⁶

White 77%

African American 22%

Other	2%
Male	48%
Female	52%
Population age 0-4	8%
Population age 65 & over	9%

Geography and Statistics²

Average elevation	215 ft.
Land area in square miles	838.5
Water area in square miles ⁴	28.5

Climate²

Average temperatures	
Annual	66°
January	49°
July	81°
Annual average rainfall	47 in.

Labor Force (1995)¹

Civilian	42,800
Employed	40,100
Unemployed	2,700
Unemployment	6.4%

Agriculture¹

Cotton, soybeans, corn, hay, forestry, and beef cattle; playground equipment, mobile homes, oil field equipment and service, concrete and other diversified manufacturing.

Colleges/Universities²

(within one hour commute)

Bossier

Bossier Parish Community College

Shreveport

Centenary College; Louisiana State University; Southern University

Public Libraries⁵ 7

Educational Attainment (1990)⁷

Less than 5th grade	2.4%
High school graduate or higher	78.9%
Some college or higher	45.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher	15.5%

Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees²**Private Employers**

Horseshoe Entertainment (Entertainment)	2,200
Isle of Capri Casinos (Entertainment)	1,800
Louisiana Downs (Horse racing)	900 (<i>seasonal</i>)

Public Employers

Bossier Parish School System (Education)	2,575
Barksdale Air Force Base (Air Force)	1,195 (<i>civilians</i>)
Bossier Medical Center (Medical)	660

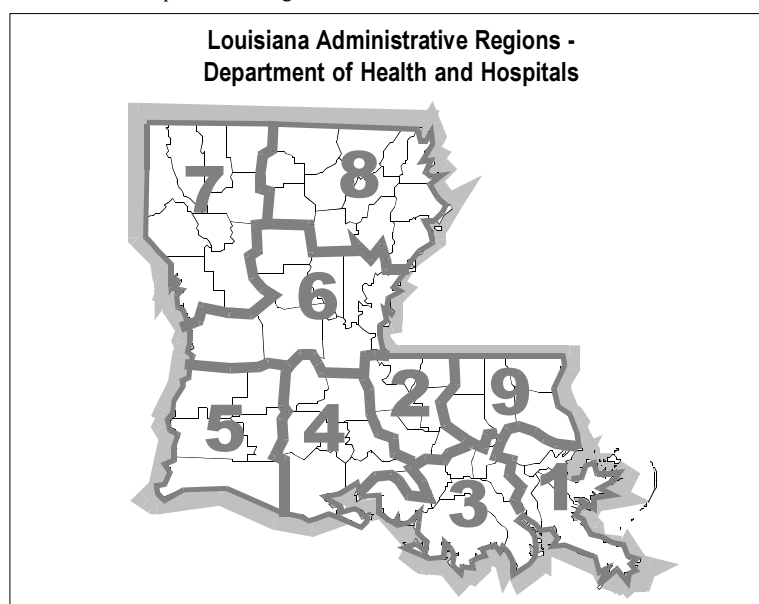
Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995) ⁷	13.9%
Children under age 18 in poverty ⁷	21.3%
Per capita income (1996) ⁸	\$19,745



References

- ¹ Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
- ² Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lde.state.la.us>
- ³ Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- ⁴ Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- ⁵ State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- ⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>
- ⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>
- ⁸ U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>.



Region 1

Jefferson
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard

Region 2

Ascension
East Baton Rouge
East Feliciana
Iberville
Pointe Coupee
West Baton Rouge
West Feliciana

Region 3

Assumption
Lafourche
St. Charles
St. James
St. John
St. Mary
Terrebonne

Region 4

Acadia
Evangeline
Iberia
Lafayette
St. Landry
St. Martin
Vermilion

Region 5

Allen
Beauregard
Calcasieu
Cameron
Jefferson Davis

Region 6

Avoyelles
Catahoula
Concordia
Grant
LaSalle
Rapides
Vernon
Winn

Region 7

Bienville
Bossier
Caddo
Claiborne
DeSoto
Natchitoches
Red River
Sabine
Webster

Region 8

Caldwell
East Carroll
Franklin
Jackson
Lincoln
Madison
Morehouse
Ouachita
Richland
Tensas
Union
West Carroll

Region 9

Livingston
St. Helena
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington